

In The Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of providing improved clickstream data collection over a series of related messages exchanged between computers in a networking environment, comprising ~~steps of~~:

determining at a server computer a clickstream correlator value to be applied to ~~the~~ related messages from a client computer;

annotating at the server computer ~~each~~ at least one of the related messages from the client computer, ~~except a first incoming one thereof~~, with information reflecting the determined clickstream correlator value; and

transmitting at least one of the annotated messages with the determined clickstream correlator value for delivery to the client computer; ~~a particular one of the computers~~

receiving at the server computer the clickstream correlator value from the client computer with subsequent ones of the related messages; and

using the clickstream correlator value at the server computer to collect clickstream data that is indicative of how a user at the client computer interacts with content at the server computer.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the clickstream correlator value indicates whether clickstream data collection is being performed.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the clickstream correlator value is used to correlate at the server computer stored log entries created for the related messages.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~ storing the determined clickstream correlator value for use when transmitting subsequent ones of the related messages to the ~~particular~~ client computer.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~wherein the particular computer is a client computer and the transmitting step transmits one of the annotated messages to the client computer, and~~ further comprising steps of:

receiving the transmitted annotated message at the client computer; and
automatically returning the determined clickstream correlator value from the client computer to ~~[[a]]~~ the server computer in each subsequent one of the related messages.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the transmitted annotated message includes an object reference that is annotated to carry the determined clickstream correlator value, and wherein ~~the~~ the automatically returning of the determined clickstream correlator value to the server computer ~~step~~ is enabled by receipt by the client computer of the annotation of the object reference.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the annotated messages is a response that serves a Web page to the ~~particular~~ client computer.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the annotated messages is a request from the ~~particular~~ client computer for a Web page.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the annotated messages is a request from the ~~particular~~ client computer for a Web object.

10. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the annotated messages is a response that serves a Web page to the ~~particular~~ client computer and wherein at least one of the subsequent ones of the related messages is a request for information referenced by the Web page.

11. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the annotated messages is a response that serves a Web page to the ~~particular~~ client computer and wherein at least one of the subsequent ones of the related messages is a request for information selected from the Web page by a user of the ~~particular~~ client computer.

12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein ~~the storing step stores~~ the determined clickstream correlator value is stored in ~~[[a]]~~ the server computer.

13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein annotation of the at least one of the related messages from the client computer ~~the annotating step~~ further comprises storing the information reflecting the determined clickstream correlator value as part of a routing token in the annotated messages.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 13, wherein the routing token is used to modify a Uniform Resource Locator from a header of selected ones of the related messages.

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the routing token further comprises information enabling identification of the ~~particular~~ client computer and ~~another server computer which performs the transmitting step~~, as well as identification of a storage area used to store the determined clickstream correlator value for the related messages.

16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

using the determined clickstream correlator value when logging records reflecting the annotated messages; and

using the logged records to reconstruct a user's navigational experience during the series of related messages.

17. (Currently amended) A computer program product for providing improved clickstream data collection over a series of related messages exchanged between computers in a networking environment, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code ~~means for determining~~ that is configured to determine at a server computer a clickstream correlator value to be applied to the related messages from a client computer;

computer-readable program code ~~means for annotating each~~ that is configured to annotate at the server computer at least one of the related messages from the client computer, except a first incoming one thereof, with information reflecting the determined clickstream correlator value; and

computer-readable program code ~~means for transmitting~~ that is configured to transmit at least one of the annotated messages for delivery to the client computer ~~a particular one of the computers;~~

computer-readable program code that is configured to receive at the server computer the clickstream correlator value from the client computer with subsequent ones of the related messages; and

computer-readable program code that is configured to use the clickstream correlator value at the server computer to collect clickstream data that is indicative of how a user at the client computer interacts with content at the server computer.

18. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the clickstream correlator value indicates whether clickstream data collection is being performed and is used to correlate at the server computer stored log entries created for the related messages.

19. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to claim 17, further comprising computer-readable program code ~~means for storing~~ that is configured to store

the determined clickstream correlator value for use when transmitting subsequent ones of the related messages to the particular computer.

20. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the particular computer is a client computer and the computer-readable program code ~~means for transmitting~~ that is configured to transmit, transmits one of the annotated messages to the client computer, and further comprising:

computer-readable program code ~~means for receiving~~ that is configured to receive the transmitted annotated message at the client computer; and

computer-readable program code ~~means for automatically returning~~ that is configured to automatically return the determined clickstream correlator value to a server computer in each subsequent one of the related messages.

21. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to claim 20, wherein the transmitted annotated message includes an object reference that is annotated to carry the determined clickstream correlator value, and wherein the computer-readable program code ~~means for automatically returning~~ that is configured to automatically return the determined clickstream correlator value is enabled by the annotation of the object reference.

22. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to claim 20, wherein at least one of the annotated messages is a response that serves a Web page to the particular computer and wherein at least one of the subsequent ones of the related messages is a request for information referenced by the Web page.

23. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to claim 20, wherein at least one of the annotated messages is a response that serves a Web page to the ~~particular~~ client computer and wherein at least one of the subsequent ones of the related messages is a request for information selected from the Web page by a user of the ~~particular~~

client computer.

24. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to claim 18, wherein the computer-readable program code ~~means for annotating~~ that is configured to annotate further comprises computer-readable program code ~~means for storing~~ that is configured to store the information reflecting the determined clickstream correlator value as part of a token in the annotated messages.

25. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 24, wherein the token is used to modify a Uniform Resource Locator from a header of selected ones of the related messages.

26. (Currently amended) The computer program product according to claim 17, further comprising:
computer-readable program code ~~means for using~~ that is configured to use the determined clickstream correlator value when logging records reflecting the annotated messages; and
computer-readable program code ~~means for using~~ that is configured to use the logged records to reconstruct a user's navigational experience during the series of related messages.

27. (Currently amended) A system for providing improved clickstream data collection over a series of related messages exchanged between computers in a networking environment, comprising:

means for determining at a server computer a clickstream correlator value to be applied to the related messages from a client computer;

means for annotating at the server computer each at least one of the related messages from the client computer, ~~except a first incoming one thereof~~, with information reflecting the determined clickstream correlator value; and

means for transmitting at least one of the annotated messages for delivery to the client computer; ~~a particular one of the computers~~

means for receiving at the server computer the clickstream correlator value from the client computer with subsequent ones of the related messages; and

means for using the clickstream correlator value at the server computer to collect clickstream data that is indicative of how a user at the client computer interacts with content at the server computer.

28. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 27, wherein the clickstream correlator value indicates whether clickstream data collection is being performed and is used to correlate at the server computer stored log entries created for the related messages.

29. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 27, further comprising means for storing the determined clickstream correlator value for use when transmitting subsequent ones of the related messages to the ~~particular~~ client computer.

30. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 27, ~~wherein the particular computer is a client computer and the means for transmitting transmits one of the annotated messages to the client computer, and~~ further comprising:

means for receiving the transmitted annotated message at the client computer; and

means for automatically returning the determined clickstream correlator value to ~~[[a]]~~ the server computer in each subsequent one of the related messages.

31. (Original) The system according to claim 30, wherein the transmitted annotated message includes an object reference that is annotated to carry the determined clickstream correlator value, and wherein the means for automatically returning is enabled by the annotation of the object reference.

32. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 30, wherein at least one of the annotated messages is a response that serves a Web page to the ~~particular~~ client computer and wherein at least one of the subsequent ones of the related messages is a request for information referenced by the Web page.

33. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 30, wherein at least one of the annotated messages is a response that serves a Web page to the ~~particular~~ client computer and wherein at least one of the subsequent ones of the related messages is a request for information selected from the Web page by a user of the ~~particular~~ client computer.

34. (Original) The system according to claim 28, wherein the means for annotating further comprises means for storing the information reflecting the determined clickstream correlator value as part of a token in the annotated messages.

35. (Original) The system according to claim 34, wherein the token is used to modify a Uniform Resource Locator from a header of selected ones of the related messages.

36. (Original) The system according to claim 27, further comprising:
means for using the determined clickstream correlator value when logging records reflecting the annotated messages; and
means for using the logged records to reconstruct a user's navigational experience during the series of related messages.